



US Army Corps of Engineers  
St. Paul District

## Lansing Big Lake Habitat Project, Lansing, Iowa

### Location/Description

Part of the Corps' Environmental Management Program, the Lansing Big Lake backwater area is a 9,755-acre area on the Iowa side of the Mississippi River in pool 9, approximately 3 miles above Lansing, Iowa. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.



Sediments were entering Big Lake through several side channels at the upper end of the lake. These sediments increased turbidity and were slowly filling the lake, significantly degrading the value of the fish and wildlife habitat.

The project modified 10 side-channel openings into the Big Lake area. Complete closures were provided at 7 of the 10 openings, and rock liners were constructed at 3 openings.

The project should reduce sedimentation into the Big Lake area by 5 inches over the 50-year project life. This reduction will slow the conversion of aquatic habitat to terrestrial habitat, preserving 150 acres of critical aquatic habitat and maintaining deeper areas over the entire Big Lake area. The project also prevents further erosion and enlargement of the existing side channels.



### Status

Project construction was completed in October 1994. However, high water caused erosion damage to the sandfill closures. This problem was remedied by placing additional rockfill along the main channel shoreline where the side channels exist. Remedial work was completed in September 1996.

### Authority

The Lansing Big Lake Habitat Project was planned under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program and constructed in accordance with a definite project report dated March 1991. The Environmental Management Program was authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 and reauthorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1999.

The project was planned and designed as part of a cooperative effort of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Iowa and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources, and local interests.

### Fiscal

Project design and construction costs were 100 percent Federal because the project is on lands managed as a national wildlife refuge. Operation and maintenance costs are 100 percent Federal (a responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Federal cost \$2,089,000

Non-federal cost \$0  
Total cost \$2,089,000

---

Public Affairs (651) 290-5201 (651) 290-5752(fax) cemvp-pa@usace.army.mil  
<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil> Last Update: 19-JAN-07